



WELLESLEYNATURAL
RESOURCECOMMISSION

Insights from Outside

April 2020

Town Hall is closed to the public during the COVID-19 emergency.
NRC and Wetlands staff are working from home and available.

For assistance contact:

NRC Director Brandon Schmitt: bschmitt@wellesleyma.gov
781-431-1019 EXT 2294

Wetlands Administrator Julie Meyer: jmeyer@wellesleyma.gov
781-431-1019 EXT 2292

Education and Outreach Coordinator Lisa Moore: lmoore@wellesleyma.gov
781-431-1019 EXT 2290

Wellesley Will Be Well



Wellesley Will is our community's plan for handling and preparing for all the impacts of a changing climate and economy. To address the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Town has developed plans through the [MVP Program](#) to keep the community safe.

Visit the [Town Website](#) and sign up for the daily Town Coronavirus Briefing and Police Alerts.

#WELLESLEYWILLBEWELL

Avoid the Lines at the RDF!



New RDF procedures are in place to keep staff and residents safe, and lines moving. Please [Read Here](#).

The RDF is asking residents to **visit during weekday mornings between 7 and 10am** to help alleviate crowding at the facility. They've also announced that **Hazardous Waste and Document Shredding Day, paint drop off days, and Sunday openings are postponed for now**. [Visit their page](#).

We are grateful to the DPW and RDF staff

Athletic Field Closings New Leash Law Open Space Guidelines How to Social Distance



This is an unprecedented time. Two weeks ago our Town made the difficult decision to **close all playing fields, playgrounds, and tennis and basketball courts in order to protect public health** during the COVID-19 emergency. We ask you to respect this decision by not using the fields and facilities.

The decision has also been made to **keep all dogs on leash** when using Town lands during this time.

Please read this message from Animal Control Officer (ACO) Sue Webb:

During the current Coronavirus pandemic, everyone - parents, kids, and dogs - need to get outside to stretch their legs. We are all sharing the same space and need to keep our physical distance to keep everyone healthy. With so many people walking, dogs need to be leashed. I know you are used to going to an open area and being able to let the dog romp, but now that space is full of people with kids and other dogs. There are so many interesting things happening that entice your dog to investigate; suddenly your dog is no longer under control and is violating our town animal control by-laws.

- **KEEP YOUR DOG LEASHED AT ALL TIMES**
- **Electronic collars are not leashes; please use a physical leash.**
- **(Town Voice Control guidelines are**

for making this commitment to recycling, and for maintaining our town infrastructure, during this most challenging time! Please help them to stay safe by keeping informed and following procedures. Thank you!

Update: Zero Waste Wellesley Challenge



From the organizers: These are very challenging times and we hope you are staying safe and well. In light of the ongoing health crisis, Zero Waste Wellesley has decided to put the Zero Waste Wellesley Challenge on hold. We appreciate everyone who has joined the challenge since January, and expect to pick up where we left off as soon as things open up for our community. For those who are trying to reduce waste, there is something still you **CAN** do, even in the face of COVID-19. **Start or step up food waste disposal in your household by participating at Wellesley's Recycling and Disposal Facility,** or backyard composting. Be well, Zero Waste Wellesley Team! *Zero Waste Wellesley is an initiative of **Sustainable Wellesley.***

Wellesley Will Enjoy the Outdoors!

suspended during COVID-19.)

Town Officials understand the important role our open spaces and town trails, including the Fuller Brook Park, play in maintaining our residents' physical and mental health. In order to keep these increasingly-crowded areas safely open for all, we are asking all visitors to use common sense and be respectful of others during this public health emergency.

- **Runners and Cyclists, please yield to pedestrians on paths.**
- **Everyone, please maintain a distance of at *least* six feet from others at all times, including our pets.**
- **Please park only in designated spaces.**

Read the full list of [guidelines](#).

With the recent closures of Mass Audubon and Trustees of Reservation lands, as well as the path around Lake Waban, our public lands will experience even more crowding in the upcoming weeks. Thank you for adhering to these rules and guidelines during this time.

The Town has created this informative chart - please click to read - and observe. Our health and safety depend on it.



Congratulations to the Zelenko family for registering the most observations (40) and the most species (26) in the weekly [Bio Blitz Nature Challenge](#)! Last week alone, Wellesley families registered 186 nature observations, of 115 unique species, by 25 observers, with 72 identifiers!

Become a Citizen Scientist: Grab your smartphone, [download the free iNaturalist app](#), and snap and upload to help catalog all the bio-diversity in Wellesley ([all while practicing physical distancing](#)).

Maybe you'll find some [Seductive Entodon Moss](#) (pictured above) in your own back yard!

April 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day! Get out and celebrate by doing an inventory of Mother Earth. [FaceBook Event](#)

Sponsored by the [Wellesley Natural Resources Commission](#) and [Wellesley Conservation Council](#)

NRC Rain Barrel Program



We will keep participants in the program

What is social distancing?

Social distancing is our main strategy for slowing the spread of COVID-19. To practice effective social distancing, we all need to **physically stay away** from non-household members and avoid all gatherings. The Health Department advises that you **STAY HOME!** and perform daily activities remotely, if possible.

When you must go out: Stay at least six feet away from others and avoid physical contact. Don't touch your face. Wash your hands as soon as you return home.

DO's	DON'Ts
Keep a daily routine Work from home, participate remotely in weekend classes, book clubs, or streaming activity systems for kids. Visit Recreation pages at www.wellesley.org .	Stop playdates for children No gatherings with anyone outside your household including sleepovers, birthday parties, picnics, etc. Have "virtual" dates instead!
Protect the most vulnerable Avoid a place for elderly visitors, parties, housewarming, or religious and cultural events. If you must visit someone with COVID-19, try to make a virtual visit or a supervised visitation if possible.	Cancel all in-person meetings You cannot have friends or family over for breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks, or a party, or meet up in a parking lot, and you should not share food or drinks with others.
Enjoy indoor activities • Read a good book • Listen to music • Clean out a closet • Cook or bake • Have a game night • Participate with friends • Stream a favorite tv show • Phone a friend • Check on an elderly neighbor	Reschedule non-essential doctor appointments Do not go to the dentist, chiropractor, massage therapist, acupuncturist, etc. unless it is absolutely necessary at this time.
Go grocery shopping Keep trips brief, don't panic or hoard food, and try to avoid busy hours.	Postpone non-essential workers around your house No workers or visitors should be allowed inside, outside, or around your house, including your neighbors! This means no house cleaning, landscaping, chefs, babysitters, dog walkers, etc. Please continue to pay them proforma if you are able.
Enjoy outdoor activities Running, walking, hiking, biking, yard work, and other outdoor activities are fine. Please follow guidelines for consideration of others and avoid all group or contact sports, including tennis, basketball, golf, etc. All dogs should be leashed when in public areas. For park information, go to the RMC website: www.wellesley.org .	Postpone non-essential plans No hair or nail appointments, or other services, no trips or travel plans.
Order take-out/food delivery Make sure you are following public health guidelines and keep your distance when picking up food, or ask to have food left at your door. For take-out information, visit Support for Restaurants at www.wellesley.org . If you can, make your own food and eat at home.	Avoid congregating in public spaces Non-essential businesses are closed to workers and the public. Don't pick up or covered parking lots. Avoid shared spaces such as Mass Transit systems, elevators, stairwells, etc. Please don't exercise when at the RMC - get in, get out. When walking or exercising outside, please keep moving.

Use common sense. Physical distancing can be difficult - these guidelines are temporary and can help you stay safe. **So, please maintain your distance!**

To learn more visit the COVID-19 Information Hub www.wellesley.org/coronavirus or call 781-235-6135

updated if there are any changes to the pick up dates listed below. If you would like to order, **please let us know by April 13.**

Pick Up Instructions

- Date: 4/20/2020 - 5/01/2020
- Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Location for Pick Up: Wellesley Town Hall, 525 Washington St, Wellesley MA 02482

Volunteering...



Unfortunately, **this year's Charles River Earth Day Cleanup has been postponed**, but you can still volunteer for the Fall **Charles River cleanup**. Participants will spend a few hours cleaning the section of Charles River that passes through Wellesley.

Teach a Dog Some New Tricks!



Now is the perfect time for teaching all dogs new tricks, and enlisting your kids to help! Here are some tips and ideas from canine professionals ACO Sue Webb and Commissioner Nancy Braun:

- “Google” basic to advanced training videos, and set up dog school. Consistency and commitment are key. Put the kids in charge and make it a daily family affair.
- Stimulate your dog with obedience games on leash while out for a walk. The required mental attention will help tire them out.
- Create an **obstacle course** in your yard or rec room.
- A simple game of “fetch” in the back yard may seem boring to you, but will keep Fido happy and burn off everyone’s energy.

Dogs feel safest when they know their

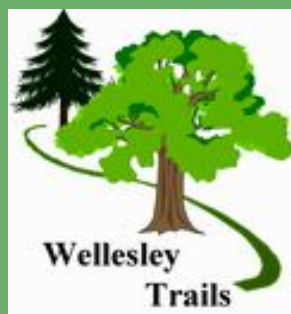
Must See TV!



Town Hall is closed and we’re all social distancing, but thanks to modern technology and the talented, dedicated, *and patient* staff in IT and at Wellesley Media, town business is getting done.

place and how to behave in their pack. There is nothing more rewarding than the bond that exists between a well-trained dog and its family. Try a few of these activities today!

Protect Wellesley Trails



Sadly, along with the increase in trail use, we are also experiencing an increase in litter and vandalism, as well as failure to adhere to proper social distancing guidelines and basic trails' code of conduct. We are asking all residents to be respectful of nature, stay on the trails, and park in designated parking spots. If a lot is full, try somewhere else or try again later. Finally, please pick up after your pets and practice *leave no trace*. For a comprehensive list of trail do's and don'ts visit the [Wellesley Trails page](#).

Due to outdoor activity restrictions, the April Trails walk has been cancelled. Please [check back later](#) for possible additional cancellations.

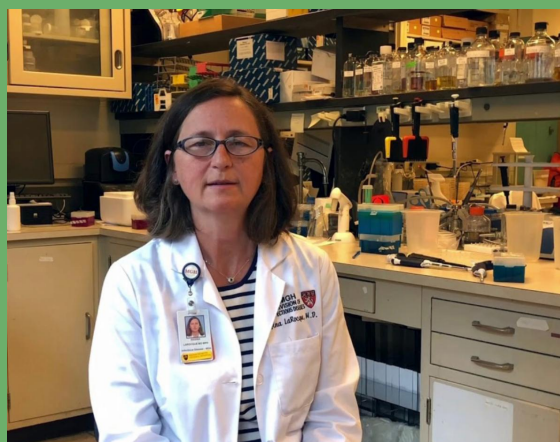
Free Trees!



The NRC offers residents free mature shade trees through its Tree Planting Program. Plantings will take place as soon as safely possible. For more information and to be added to the request list [click here](#) or [email the NRC](#).

These folks get us up and running by talking us through the finer points of downloading Zoom, choosing grid or speaker view, turning on our cameras and muting our mics. Boards and Committees are [posting agendas](#) and making it all work, including public speak. (How-to phone in instructions are posted on each agenda.) Tune into Comcast channel 8 or Verizon channel 40 to watch, or view on-demand at [WellesleyMedia.org](#)

Farewell, with Gratitude



Our many thanks and good wishes follow Dr. Regina LaRocque, an infectious disease specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, as she steps off the board to serve our community in many other important ways. In addition to serving on the NRC, Regina also serves on the Leadership Team of Sustainable Wellesley, and is a member of [Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility](#). She is the co-author of [Climate Change - A Health Emergency](#), published in the New England Journal of Medicine. We will miss her strong voice and expertise during our meetings, but we know she will continue her activism. We thank you Regina, for your leadership and bold action these past three years.

Now, More than Ever

Be Connected

facebook

Please "Like" and "Follow" the [NRC on FaceBook](#) for daily news and announcements!

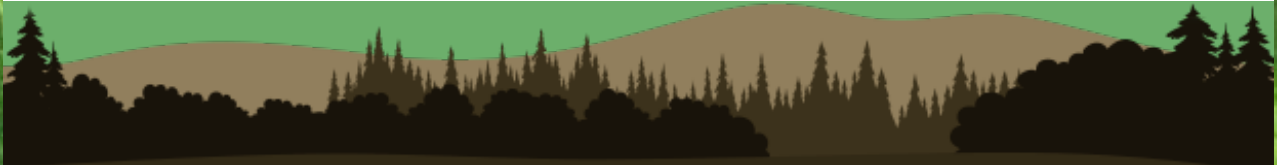


Stay healthy and safe, and be kind to one another!

The Wellesley Natural Resources
Commissioners and NRC Staff

MEETING CALENDAR

Agendas [are posted](#) 48 hours prior to meeting time. Visit [Wellesley Town Web Page](#) for updated meeting dates and times.



Connect with us



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Website: www.wellesleyma.gov/nrc